Import of Shells for Bofors Guns

† 2502. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been importing the shells for the Bofors Guns till recently;

(b) whether Government have now decided to manufacture these shells for the Bofors guns in the country itself;

(c) if so, when its manufacturing would be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The 155mm ammunition used with FH 77B Gun System is indigenously manufactured by the Ordnance Factories and its import is ordinarily not undertaken if the capacities of the Ordnance Factories and the requirement of Army match. Certain varieties of superior 155mm ammunition have recently been imported, where indigenous capability was yet to be established or where the Army's requirement of the ammunition was more than the production capacity of the Ordnance Factories. In the case of import of ammunition with superior technology, Transfer of Technology is also obtained to enable the Ordance Factories to adopt the latest technology for subsequent indigenous production.

Missile Programme

2503. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the missile programme of "Durga" has been shelved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has better missiles than India; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) the circumstances under which development programme of "Surya" and "Durga" are being shelved by the Defence Research and Development Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation has never undertaken development of any missile called 'Durga'. Therefore, the question of its shelving does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Development of these missiles was never undertaken. Therefore, the question of their shelving does not arise.

Production of Spare Parts

2504. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to take concrete steps to produce at least spares for all defence equipments in 39 ordnance factories in order to reduce our dependence on foreign sources during crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Spares for following types of equipments are manufactured and supplied by Ordnance Factories as per requirement projected by the services:

(i) Indigenously developed equipments productionised by Ordnance Factories but using imported systems and components, and

(ii) Equipments manufactured by Ordnance Factories through Transfer of Technology' (TOT) using both imported and indigenously manufactured systems and components.

There is a third category viz. imported equipment -which has not been productionised.

In all such cases there is a concerted attempt at indigenisation of spares to the maximum extent possible based on eriticality as well